

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 02709 171758Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 /075 W
----- 050950

O 171721Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6371

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 2709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG

SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON ZAIRE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REFS KINSHASA 2248, STATE 62995

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VANDEN BLOOCK WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON MARCH 19 FOR MARCH 20 MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON ON ZAIRIAN DEVELOPMENTS AS FOLLOW-UP OF DAVIGNON-ROBINSON MEETING IN PARIS LAST WEEK. VANDEN BLOOCK WILL SEEK TO MEET ALSO WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH VANDEN BLOOCK AND FOREIGN MINISTRY AFRICAN DIRECTOR LE BRUN TODAY WE LEARNED THAT VANDEN BLOOCK WILL DECLARE BELGIAN OPPOSITION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL TO RECONSTITUTE PARIS CLUB FOR ZAIRE DEBT RESCHEDULING EXERCISE. BELGIANS FAVOR FORMING AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP TO ORGANIZE ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, BUT THEY FEEL STRONGLY IT SHOULD SIT IN KINSHASA, NOT PARIS. REASONS THEY ADVANCE ARE THE FOLLOWING: (A) IT IS LONG-STANDING BELGIAN EXPERIENCE THAT ZAIRIAN AGENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 02709 171758Z

ARE SEVERELY HANDICAPPED IN DOING BUSINESS ABROAD ON MATTERS

THAT REQUIRE MOBUTU'S APPROVAL; IT WILL BE HARD ENOUGH IN KINSHASA TO ACQUIRE ACCURATE INFORMATION AND CLEAR POSITIONS FROM ZAIRIANS; IN PARIS PROBLEMS WOULD BE MULTIPLIED; (B) BELGIANS CONSIDER THAT GOZ HAS ONLY TWO MEN QUALIFIED TO NEGOTIATE ON FOREIGN DEBT CONSOLIDATION - PRESIDENT OF BANK OF ZAIRE AND BISENGIMANA - NEITHER OF WHICH CAN LEAVE ZAIRE FOR POSSIBLY PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS; (C) A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE DEBT CONSOLIDATION EXERCISE WILL BE TO FIND OUT WHAT ZAIRE OWES TO WHOM UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS (SOMETHING BELGIANS BELIEVE GOZ NOW HAS ONLY VAGUE IDEA OF); PLACE TO FIND THIS OUT IS IN KINSHASA, NOT SOMEWHERE ON ANOTHER CONTINENT.

3. VANDEN BLOOCK WILL POINT OUT THAT IMF REPORT HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED TO IMF, HENCE IMF GOVERNING BOARD IS NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO MAKE MEANINGFUL JUDGMENTS ON THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE ZAIRE DEBT PROBLEM. BELGIUM WANTS IMF TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AID EXERCISE. VANDEN BLOOCK SEES HIS MISSION AS PRIMARILY ONE OF SORTING OUT THE PROBLEM SO THAT A RATIONAL APPROACH BY IMF AND INTERESTED COUNTRIES CAN BE DEVELOPED.

4. COMMENT. BELGIANS ARE MUCH IRRITATED AT WHAT THEY REGARD AS FRENCH EFFORT TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE ZAIRE RESCUE OPERATION. THEY CONSIDER THAT LONG-STANDING FRENCH AMBITIONS IN ZAIRE UNDERLIE THEPARIS CLUB INITIATIVE. THEY ASSERT THAT GOZ HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BOUGHT THE FRENCH IDEA AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BELGIAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA IS LOBBYING THE ZAIRIANS AGAINST IT. FIRESTONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBT, VISITS, MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRUSSE02709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0011
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760353/aaaabukb.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KINSHASA 2248, 76 STATE 62995
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN VIEWS ON ZAIRE DEBT RESCHEDULING
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, CG, IMF, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W), (VANDEN BLOOCK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006